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Letter dated 31 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith, in my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, the text of a communiqué issued on 29 October 2002 by the Central Organ of the African Union Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its eighty-sixth ordinary session, held at ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the eighty-sixth ordinary session, held at ambassadorial level, of the Central Organ of the African Union Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

Addis Ababa, 29 October 2002

The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 86th Ordinary Session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Tuesday 29 October 2002. The session was chaired by Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, and took place in the presence of the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Mr. Amara Essy.

The Central Organ examined the reports of the Interim Chairperson of the Commission on the Indicative Work Programme on Peace and Security Issues in Africa for the Central Organ and the Commission of the African Union for the period 2002-2003, as well as the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Liberia. It also heard briefings on the situation in The Sudan, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire and the Central African Republic (CAR).

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ decided as follows:

A. ON THE INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME ON PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES IN AFRICA FOR THE CENTRAL ORGAN AND THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR THE PERIOD 2002-2003

The Central Organ:

1. **took note** with appreciation, of the Indicative Work Programme for 2002-2003 on Peace and Security Issues presented by the Commission;

2. **approved** the Work Programme with the observations made in that regard and **requested** that all the necessary measures be taken to ensure its effective implementation;

3. **appealed** to all the Member States concerned to take the necessary measures, without further delay, for the signing and ratification of the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in order to facilitate its speedy entry into force;

4. **stressed the need** to strengthen the human resources of the Conflict Management Centre of the Commission during the Interim Period to enable it discharge its functions with increased efficiency.

B. <u>On the Situation in the DRC</u>

The Central Organ:

1. **welcomed**:

   a) the signing, under the auspices of Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, of the Pretoria Agreement of 30 July 2002 between Presidents Joseph Kabila and Paul Kagame, on the withdrawal of Rwandese troops from the territory of the DRC and the dismantling of ex-FAR and Interahamwé forces from the DRC; and

   b) the signing, under the auspices of Mr. Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, of the Luanda Agreement of 6 September 2002 between Presidents Joseph Kabila and Yoweri Museveni, on the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the territory of the DRC, the resumption of cooperation and establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda;

2. **further welcomed** the withdrawal of foreign troops from the DRC as stipulated by the Lusaka, Pretoria and Luanda Agreements. The Central Organ **also welcomed** the measures already taken by the Congolese Government within the framework of the Pretoria Agreement, and **encouraged** it to persevere in that direction;

3. **expressed its concern** at the serious deterioration of the security situation in the East of the DRC, particularly in the aftermath of the attacks perpetrated by forces in several localities, especially in the town of Uvira. The Central Organ **deplored** those attacks which contravened the Pretoria Agreement and could only complicate the search for peace in the DRC. In this regard, the Central Organ **urged** all the parties concerned to immediately and without pre-conditions put an end to all hostilities and refrain from any action likely to exacerbate the tension. The Central Organ **requested** all concerned governments to exert influence to that end on all the Parties concerned;

4. **called upon** all the parties to continue to comply scrupulously with the commitments made under the Lusaka, Pretoria and Luanda Agreements and to observe the International Humanitarian Law and human rights in the areas under their control;

5. **deplored** the continued tension in the Ituri region between the Hema and Lendu groups, and **encouraged** the Congolese and Ugandan Governments to pursue their efforts within the framework of the Ituri Peace Commission, to defuse tension, restore trust and promote reconciliation among the parties;

6. **stressed** the regional dimension of the conflict in the DRC and **called upon** all countries of the Region and the Parties concerned to favour dialogue and negotiation in the search for solutions to the problems faced by the Region;

7. **expressed its satisfaction** at the progress achieved under the auspices of President Thabo Mbeki, Current Chairman of the African Union, and Mr. Moustapha Niasse, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General, in the ongoing negotiations aimed at reaching a preliminary agreement on the framework and modalities for the transition. The Central Organ **requested** the Congolese parties to give full cooperation to President Thabo Mbeki and Mr. Moustapha Niasse so as to speed up the ongoing negotiations and create conditions conducive to the resumption of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue;

8. **made an urgent appeal** to the United Nations Security Council to approve the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary General as contained in his Special Report on the DRC, and **requested** the strengthening of the MONUC mandate and capacities to enable it discharge its mission under the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reinstallation and Reintegration (DDRRR) programme;

9. **appealed** to the international community to provide the DRC the required assistance for the socio-economic reconstruction of the country;

10. **congratulated** President Thabo Mbeki on his personal involvement in the efforts aimed at ending the conflict in the DRC and promoting reconciliation in that country as well as the Government of the Republic of South Africa for all the facilities offered for the dialogue and peace process in the DRC;

11. **also congratulated** Mr. Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, President of the Republic of Zambia and Coordinator of the Regional Initiative for Peace, and the other leaders concerned on their efforts for peace in the DRC and the Region;

12. **requested** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to continue to provide African Union's support for the current efforts and to get actively involved, alongside the United Nations, in the implementation of the agreement that would be concluded by the Congolese parties.

C. On the Situation in Burundi

The Central Organ:

1. **welcomed** the outcome of the Summit of the Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi held in Dar-es-Salaam on 6 - 7 October 2002, and **strongly supported** the decisions taken on that occasion. The Central Organ also **welcomed** the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement on the margins of the Summit by the two armed groups – Jean-Bosco Ndayikengurukiye's faction of the CNDD-FDD and Mr. Alain Mugabarabona's wing of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL;

2. **welcomed** the resumption, from 21 October 2002, of the ceasefire negotiations in Dar-es-Salaam, and **encouraged** the Burundian parties to cooperate fully with the Mediation with a view to concluding a Ceasefire Agreement within thirty (30) days in conformity with the decisions of the Dar-es-Salaam Regional Summit. In particular, the Central Organ **made an urgent appeal** to the two other armed groups, namely Jean-Pierre Nkurunziza's faction of the CNDD-FDD and Agathon Rwasa's faction of PALIPEHUTU-FNL, to negotiate with the Transition Government without pre-conditions and in the spirit of openness with a view to concluding a Ceasefire Agreement;

3. **called upon** all the parties to immediately end hostilities, violence and exactions against the civilian population so as to create conducive climate for the pursuit of the ceasefire negotiations. In particular, the Central Organ **encouraged** the Transitional Government to continue in its efforts to shed more light on the Itaba massacres in order to punish the perpetrators and build trust in the institutions of the transition;

4. **congratulated** President El Hadj Omar Bongo and Deputy President Jacob Zuma, as well as to all the leaders of the Region on their

persistent efforts to get the Burundian parties to the ceasefire negotiations to conclude an agreement;

5. **further welcomed** the decision of the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to make a contribution of US$200,000.00 to the Mediation to facilitate the participation of the Burundian parties in the ongoing negotiations and the active involvement of the African Union in these negotiations;

6. **paid tribute** to President Benjamin Mkapa and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for their efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in Burundi and for the sacrifices made in hosting Burundian refugees;

7. **requested** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to take all the necessary measures to contribute, at the appropriate time, to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement;

8. **reiterated its concern** over the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Burundi and **requested** Member States and partners of the African Union to step up their assistance to Burundi to alleviate the sufferings of the civilian population, facilitate implementation of the transition programme and the interim strategic framework for poverty reduction.

D. <u>On the Situation in Liberia</u>

The Central Organ:

1. **called upon** the Government of Liberia and the LURD to immediately put an end to hostilities and create favourable conditions for the organization of negotiations between the two parties;

2. **also appealed** to the Government and both the armed and unarmed opposition to resolutely engage in the path of genuine reconciliation under the auspices of ECOWAS and the African Union;

3. **welcomed** the efforts of the Chairman and the leaders of ECOWAS and the establishment of an International Contact Group on Liberia to serve as framework for constructive dialogue between the Liberian Government and the International Community, with a view to reaching an agreement on the ways and means to contribute to the restoration of peace and stability in the Liberia;

4. **stressed** the need for the warring parties to strictly observe the International Humanitarian Law and human rights, in conformity with the relevant international instruments and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

5. **appealed** to all the States in the sub-region to stop supporting the armed groups in neighbouring States and prevent them from using their territories to stage attacks on other neighbouring countries in conformity with AU principles;

6. **encouraged** the leaders of the Mano River Region to pursue the efforts initiated as part of the follow-up of the Rabat Summit Decisions aimed at restoring peace and stability in Liberia and in the Region;

7. **reiterated** the condemnation of the Assembly of Heads of State of the attempt by the rebels in Liberia to seize power by force;

8. **reaffirmed** the decision of the Council of Ministers as endorsed by the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Durban in July 2002, regarding the sanctions against Liberia and aimed at ensuring that efforts are made to persuade the Security Council to lift the sanctions, taking into account their serious socio-economic impact on the Liberian people;

9. **encouraged** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to pursue and intensify efforts to enhance the African Union's contribution to the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Liberia and in the Mano River Region.

E. <u>On the Situation in the Sudan</u>

The Central Organ:

1. **welcomed** the signing of the Machakos Protocol, on 20 July 2002, by the Government of The Sudan and the SPLM/A, and at the resumption in Machakos, Kenya, of peace talks between the two parties, and **encouraged** them to demonstrate the necessary spirit of compromise so as to conclude a comprehensive agreement before 31 December 2002;

2. **requested** the two parties to strictly observe the cessation of hostilities as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding of 15 October 2002 to create a climate conducive to the pursuit and conduct of the negotiations;

3. **congratulated** President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya and his Special Envoy, Lieutenant General Lazarus Sumbeiywo, as well as IGAD leaders and other members of the International Community for their sustained efforts in the peace process in The Sudan. The Central Organ **urged** the facilitators and the group of observers to contribute to the ongoing process in a constructive, objective and transparent manner;

4. **expressed satisfaction** at the appointment of a Special Envoy for The Sudan in the person of Ambassador Babą Gani Kingibe, by the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, and **requested** him to take any other appropriate measures to backstop IGAD efforts and assist the parties in implementing any agreement that they would conclude.

F. <u>On the Situation in Somalia</u>

The Central Organ:

1. **welcomed** the commencement in Eldoret, Kenya, of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference, on 15 October 2002, under the auspices of IGAD;

2. **requested** all the Somali parties to avail themselves of this opportunity to work resolutely and in good faith towards lasting peace and reconciliation in their country. To this end, the Central Organ **welcomed** the signing by the delegates at the Eldoret Conference of a Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the structures and principles of the national reconciliation process in Somalia;

3. **welcomed** the participation of the African Union in the opening ceremony of the Somali Reconciliation Conference and the measures taken to follow the deliberations of that Conference. The Central Organ **encouraged** the Interim Chairperson to increase the African Union's involvement, including the appointment of a Special Envoy.

G. <u>On the Situation in Côte d'Ivoire</u>

The Central Organ:

1. **reaffirmed** the commitment of the African Union to the unity and territorial integrity of Cote d'Ivoire as well as to the respect of constitutional legality in this country;

2. **welcomed** the signing, on 17 October 2002, of the proposed plan to resolve the crisis between the Coordination of the mutineers and the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs, acting on behalf of the current Chairman of ECOWAS, as well as the statement by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire noting the cessation of hostilities by the mutineers and their acceptance of dialogue, in conformity with the recommendation of the ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit held in Accra, Ghana, on 29 September 2002;

3. **urged** the Government and the assailants to continue to observe the cessation of hostilities and protect the Ivoirian and foreign populations as well as their property;

4. **further welcomed** the Decision of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS Contact Group held in Abidjan on 23 October 2002, for the rapid deployment of a Monitoring Group to supervise the cessation of hostilities and maintain a climate conducive to dialogue between the Government and the assailants;

5. **encouraged** the parties to cooperate fully with President Gnassingbé Eyadema, Coordinator of the ECOWAS Contact Group, as well as with the Current Chairman of the African Union, President Thabo Mbeki and the Special Envoy of the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Mr. Miguel Trovoado, in the search for a lasting solution to the crisis;

6. **commended** the French Government for acceding to President Gbagbo's request for the deployment of French troops along the frontline to monitor the ceasefire pending the deployment of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group;

7. **appealed** to the International Community to provide ECOWAS with all the necessary assistance to facilitate the successful conclusion of its peace efforts, particularly by providing the requisite logistics and financial assistance for the deployment of the Monitoring Group;

8. **reiterated** its concern about the grave humanitarian consequences resulting from the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire and its request that the Commission follow closely the evolution of the situation with a view to evaluating the humanitarian impact of the crisis and taking the most appropriate measures in this regard;

9. **requested** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS, to take all appropriate measures to facilitate the efforts

of the Contact Group and the deployment of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group and to continue to contribute to the ongoing peace efforts.

H. On the Situation in the Central African Republic

The Central Organ:

1. **expressed** serious concern at the current situation prevailing in Bangui and the ongoing fighting there;

2. **strongly condemned** the attempt to seize power by force by the supporters of General François Bozizé, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the pertinent Decisions and Declarations of the African Union on Unconstitutional Change of Government. The Central Organ **called upon** the assailants to lay down their arms and put an immediate end to their attack;

3. **reaffirmed** the readiness of the African Union to contribute to the implementation of the Decisions adopted at the CEMAC Summit held in Libreville on 2 October 2002, and **made an urgent appeal** to Member States and partners of the African Union to provide the necessary assistance for the speedy deployment of the CEMAC force;

4. **encouraged** the Interim Chairperson, in close collaboration with CEMAC, to assist in the resolution of the current crisis and, to this end, to dispatch, as quickly as possible, a delegation to the Region.